

SWOSU's APhA-ASP Chapter Wins National Award for Diabetes Project

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The SWOSU chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) at Weatherford recently won the National Operation Diabetes Award from the American Pharmacists Association. Accepting for SWOSU were (second from left) APhA-ASP President Janet Seratte of Duncan and (fourth from left) faculty co-sponsor Dr. Nina Morris. Making the presentation were (from left): Sarah Matunis, Rite Aid Corporation; Olympic 10-time swimming medalist Gary Hall, Jr., and Larry Ellingson, chairman of the board of the American Diabetes Association.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's College of Pharmacy recently won a national award at the annual meeting of the American Pharmacists Association in Orlando, Florida.

The SWOSU chapter of the American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists (APhA-ASP) won the National Operation Diabetes Award for the most outstanding project.

The award was presented to SWOSU by Gary Hall, Jr., a three-time Olympian and 10-time Olympic medallist in swimming. SWOSU faculty co-sponsor Dr. Nina Morris said the presentation was a special one for the SWOSU students. Hall has type one diabetes and has been a hero to patients with diabetes and swimmers worldwide.

The student who was in charge of the project at SWOSU was Janet Seratte of Duncan, who served as club president during the 2004-05 school year. The other faculty co-sponsor is Dr. Shelly Prince.

Operation Diabetes is designed to increase awareness of diabetes and the dangers associated with the disease, provide glucose screening and monitoring, and promote pharmaceutical care in the community. The goal is not to diagnose diabetes but rather to provide information to the public in order for people to become more knowledgeable about the disease and to be able to recognize signs and symptoms of diabetes.

Collegiate chapters across the nation were sent planning guides to help them implement, manage and market a diabetes management and screening campaign. The APhA-ASP chapter's project was deemed best in the country.

Some of the projects that SWOSU did during the year included blood glucose screenings and blood pressure checks at the America's Walk for Diabetes and Walk This Way events in Oklahoma City and at clinics in Guymon, Altus, Clinton and Weatherford.